



# DAILY PT POINTERS

7th February, 2024



**mint**  
CONTRIBUTOR: THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

**Govt looks to address external rupee concerns**  
Reserve Bank of India has been urged to take steps to address external rupee concerns, including by strengthening the rupee's convertibility.



**THE HINDU**

**Expert panel clears Covaxin for emergency use in 2-18 age group**  
A panel of experts has cleared Covaxin for emergency use in children aged 2 to 18 years.

**Retail inflation falls to 4.35% as industrial output growth up**  
Retail inflation fell to 4.35% in January, down from 4.5% in December, as industrial output growth picked up.

**The Indian EXPRESS**  
JOURNALISM OF COURAGE

**Credit card spend in forex to come under LRS, and taxed 20%**  
The government is planning to bring credit card spend in foreign exchange under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) and tax it at 20%.

**DK does not blink, Cong says new cabinet in 48 to 72 hours**  
The Congress party says that the government will not blink and will announce a new cabinet within 48 to 72 hours.

**L-G can destabilise elected MCD with power to nominate aldermen, says SC**  
The Supreme Court has held that the Lieutenant Governor (L-G) can destabilise the elected Municipal Corporation District (MCD) by using his power to nominate aldermen.



**Tihar officer who 'favoured' Jain faced probe in excise case**  
A Tihar officer who was accused of favouring a Jain in an excise case has been investigated.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



**The Hindu: Page 8\_Polity and Governance-(GSII)**

EXPLAINER

## Understanding the delimitation exercise

What does delimitation mean and what are the constitutional provisions which deal with it? Why were the seats frozen as per the 1971 Census? Will the fresh exercise go against the federal principle, giving an advantage to certain States over others?

- Delimitation means the process of fixing the number of seats and boundaries of territorial constituencies in each State for the Lok Sabha and Legislative assemblies.
- It also includes determining the seats to be reserved for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) in these houses.
- Article 82 and 170 of the Constitution provide that the number of seats in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative assemblies as well as its division into territorial constituencies shall be readjusted after each Census.
- This 'delimitation process' is performed by the 'Delimitation Commission' that is set up under an act of Parliament.

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



The Hindu: Page 10-Polity and Governance (GSII)

## Modi-headed committee to meet today to select new EC

**The Hindu Bureau**  
NEW DELHI

A committee headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet on Wednesday to select a candidate for the post of Election Commissioner.

The meeting will be held to fill the vacancy that will arise when Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey demits office on February 14, sources said.

This is the first meeting of the committee since a new law for the appointment of the CEC and other ECs came into on January 2. The other members of

- Parliament has passed the 'Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Bill, 2023'
  - The Bill replaces the 'Election Commission (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners and Transaction of Business) Act, 1991'.
  - It provides for the appointment, salary, and removal of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and Election Commissioners (ECs).
  - According to the provisions of the Bill, the CEC and ECs will be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of a Selection Committee. The Selection Committee will consist of the Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, and Leader of Opposition or leader of the largest opposition party in the Lok Sabha.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

The Hindu: Page 10-IR (GSII)

## Myanmar border will be fully fenced: Shah



- India and Myanmar share an unfenced border, and people on either side have familial and ethnic ties, which prompted the arrangement in the 1970s.
  - Under the FMR, every member of the hill tribes, who is either a citizen of India or a citizen of Myanmar, and who resides within 16 km on either side of the border, can cross the border on production of a border pass, usually valid for a year, and can stay for up to two weeks per visit.
- Do you know ?**
- India shares a 1,643 km-long border with Myanmar, which passes through the States of Arunachal Pradesh (520 km), Nagaland (215 km), Manipur (398 km), and Mizoram (510 km).

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## The Hindu: Page 10\_IR (GSII)

### After five months of pause due to Gaza war, govt. hopes to move on the IMEC

Suhasini Haidar  
NEW DELHI

After months of a pause on the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) that was launched during the G-20 summit in September 2023 but stalled due to the Israel-Hamas conflict, the government is expected to take talks on the project forward this month, when Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis visits India. Mr. Mitsotakis, who is



Kyriakos Mitsotakis

National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, European Union Secretary-General Stefano Sannino and others on the sidelines of the Raisina Dialogue could yield some progress on the

signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in New Delhi have only held informal consultations, the sources said. They include the European Union, France, Germany, India, Italy, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and the U.S.

According to the MoU signed on September 9, the participants had planned to meet "within the next sixty days to develop and commit to an action plan with relevant timetables". However, after the October

the progress [on the IMEC] so far is very good," Union Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in response to a question from *The Hindu*. "There is clarity that this is a very big insurance against any disruptions in the trade routes," he said, adding that the alignment of the route and "missing links" had been identified.

Diplomats and officials *The Hindu* contacted also insist that the IMEC project would not be paused indefinitely, given the strong



- The India-Middle East-Europe-Economic Corridor (IMEC) was announced on the sidelines of the G20 meeting in New Delhi when a memorandum of understanding was signed between the European Union and seven countries, namely India, the US, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Germany, and Italy
- The proposed IMEC will consist of railroad, ship-to-rail networks (road and sea) and road transport routes (and networks) extending across two corridors, that is, the east corridor – connecting India to the Gulf, and the northern corridor – connecting the Gulf to Europe.

## Indian Express: Geography (GSI)

### WHAT IS THE 'ATMOSPHERIC RIVER' BRINGING HEAVY RAIN TO CALIFORNIA

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, FEBRUARY 6

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA has been inundated with massive rainfall, with the risk of landslides rising on the soaked ground. The rainfall has been caused by an 'atmospheric river', and is likely to bring in both positives and negatives for the region.



A home destroyed in a mudslide in Los Angeles Monday. Reuters

#### What is an atmospheric river?

According to the US government's Department of Energy, "atmospheric rivers are large, narrow sections of the Earth's atmosphere that carry moisture from the Earth's tropics near the equator to the poles. On average, the Earth has four to five active atmospheric rivers at any time. Each moves the equivalent of the liquid water that flows through the mouth of the Amazon River. When they reach land, atmospheric rivers release this moisture, producing heavy snow and rain."

The rain that has hit California is part of a weather system called the Pineapple Express, which is an atmospheric river that originates in the subtropical waters around Hawaii.

#### How will it help the region?

Before two consecutive wet years including the present one, California had experienced drought conditions for decades. California's water year is measured from October to September. The rainfall, thus, is welcome, but could have chosen its location better.

According to Reuters, the current storm is mostly affecting Southern California, which lacks the storage capacity of the northern part of the state and

the resources to capture storm water before it drains into the Pacific Ocean. So while all the state's reservoirs are virtually at or above historic average levels, they are not topping off like they did last year when a parade of atmospheric rivers landed mostly in Northern California.

The rainfall is also good news for aquatic life, such as the Chinook salmon, which had suffered during the dry years.

#### What risk could it bring?

The additional moisture is generally good for wildfire resistance, but the rain also promotes growth of grasses and bush that will become fuel for future fires when the weather turns dry again, reported Reuters.

"You'll have that beautiful green hillside in July and August but subsequently that fuel will die off, which promotes rapid fire growth and what we call light flashy fuels," Reuters quoted Nick Schuler, spokesperson for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, as saying.

WITH INPUTS FROM REUTERS

- Atmospheric rivers are long, concentrated regions in the atmosphere that transport moist air from the tropics to higher latitudes.
- The moist air, combined with high wind speeds, produce heavy rain and snow upon landfall, especially over mountainous terrain.
- These extreme precipitation events can lead to flash flooding, mudslides, and catastrophic damage to life and property.
- When atmospheric rivers pass over land they can cause conditions similar to those of hurricanes with intense and rapid rainfall, cyclone force winds, and significantly increased wave heights

# HEADLINES OF THE DAY



Indian Express: S&T (GSIII)-Page 1

## Indigenous CAR-T cell therapy now available for commercial use: 'first' patient declared free of cancer

Developed by ImmunoAct, IIT Bombay and Tata Memorial Hospital, the therapy has been administered to 15 patients in India. Three of them have successfully achieved cancer remission. Dr Gupta, the first commercial patient to be declared free of cancer, speaks of his experience exclusively to The Indian



- NexCAR19 (Actalycabtagene autoleucel) is the CAR-T cell therapy.
  - Chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cell therapies represent a quantum leap in the sophistication of cancer treatment.
  - Unlike chemotherapy or immunotherapy, which require mass-produced injectable or oral medication, CAR T-cell therapies use a patient's own cells.
  - They are modified in the laboratory to activate T-cells, a component of immune cells, to attack tumours.
  - These modified cells are then infused back into the patient's bloodstream after conditioning them to multiply more effectively.
  - The cells are even more specific than targeted agents and directly activate the patient's immune system against cancer, making the treatment more clinically effective. This is why they're called 'living drugs'.



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

## PIB:Governance (GSII)

Ministry of Education



Last date to submit applications (Fresh) under National Means cum Merit Scholarship Scheme AY 2023-24 extended up to 09th February, 2024

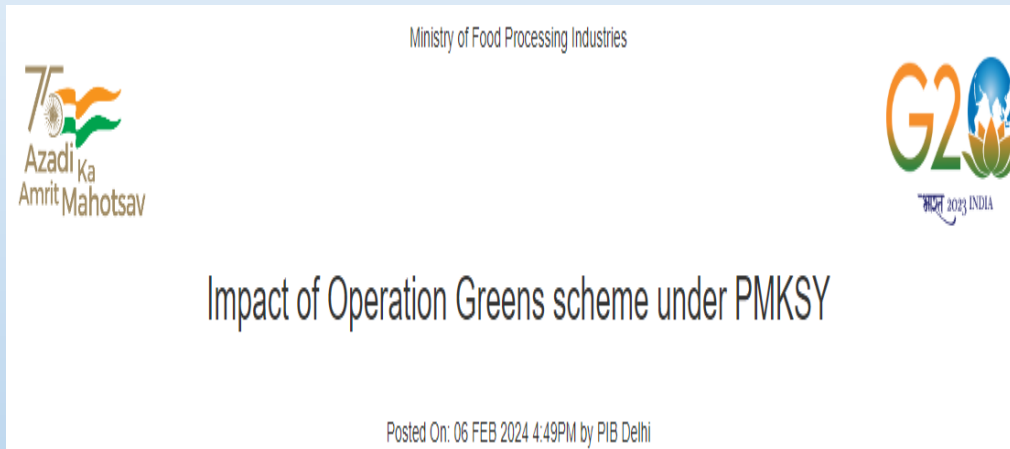
Posted On: 06 FEB 2024 8:12PM by PIB Delhi

- Under the 'National Means-cum-Merit Scholarship Scheme' scholarships are awarded to meritorious students of economically weaker sections to arrest their drop out at class VIII and encourage them to continue their education at secondary stage. The amount of scholarship is Rs. 12000/- per annum. (NMMSS) is boarded on the National Scholarship Portal (NSP) - a one stop platform for scholarship schemes given to students. This is a Central Sector Scheme. Students whose parental income from all sources is not more than Rs. 3,50,000/- per annum are eligible to avail the scholarships. The students must have minimum of 55% marks or equivalent grade in Class VII examination for appearing in the selection test for award of scholarship (relaxable by 5% for SC/ST students).



# HEADLINES OF THE DAY

**PIB: Governance (GSII) / Economy (GSIII)**



- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has been implementing a Central Sector Scheme- “Operation Greens” (OG) under Pradhan Mantri Kisan SAMPADA Yojana since 2018-19, with the objective of enhancing the value realisation of farmers and minimizing post-harvest losses
- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) has extended the Operation Greens Scheme from Tomato, Onion and Potato (TOP) to all fruits & vegetables (TOTAL) for a period of six months on pilot basis as part of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.